

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-7.

Please add new claims 8- 18:

8. A quick-action cylinder with a safety device to prevent blocking of a draw-in nipple, comprising  
a housing having a center bore receiving the draw-in nipple;  
at least one locking member disposed in the housing and adapted to engage with the draw-in nipple,  
a spring assembly disposed in the housing in at least one spring compartment, said spring assembly applying a spring force to urge the least one locking member into contact with an exterior periphery of the draw-in nipple for locking the draw-in nipple in the center bore,  
a locking piston disposed in the housing and operative to oppose the spring force for unlocking the draw-in nipple,  
at least one relief bore extending between the at least one spring compartment and a clearance space having a lower pressure than the spring compartment, and  
a pressure element arranged in a region of the relief bore and adapted to move into an open position in the event of an overpressure in the spring compartment.
9. The quick-action cylinder of claim 8, wherein the pressure element comprises a valve.
10. The quick-action cylinder of claim 8, wherein the pressure element comprises at least one deformable pressure member arranged in the clearance space.

11. The quick-action cylinder of claim 10, wherein the at least one deformable pressure member comprises a control ring which undergoes a deformation when a pressure is applied by a pressure medium and opens the at least one relief bore as a result of the deformation.

12. The quick-action cylinder of claim 8, wherein the at least one relief bore extends to the center bore of the quick-action cylinder.

13. The quick-action cylinder of claim 10, wherein the at least one deformable pressure member comprises a pressure plug which is in friction engagement with the at least one relief bore and has a pressure relief direction of a pressure medium applied to the locking piston.

14. The quick-action cylinder of claim 10, wherein the at least one deformable pressure member comprises a diaphragm valve having a membrane with a peripheral region which, in an undeformed state, closes at least one relief bore, said membrane undergoing a deformation when a pressure is applied by a pressure medium and opening the at least one relief bore for fluid conduction into the clearance space.

15. The quick-action cylinder of claim 9, wherein the valve comprises a pressure relief valve arranged in the at least one relief bore and having a valve body, a control surface and a resilient control member, wherein in a closed position of the pressure relief valve the valve body is urged against the control surface by the force of the resilient control member, and wherein in an open position the valve body is connected for fluid conduction with the relief bore.

16. The quick-action cylinder of claim 15, wherein the pressure relief valve comprises a spring-biased valve and the resilient control member comprises a control spring.

17. The quick-action cylinder of claim 8, wherein the locking piston is operated by a pressure medium.

18. The quick-action cylinder of claim 17, wherein the pressure medium comprises a hydraulic fluid.